

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is the premier economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1989 and comprising 21 member economies, including the United States, APEC fosters growth and prosperity by facilitating economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment throughout the region.

## **An Agenda for Growth and Job Creation**

As the host of APEC 2011, the United States aims to create opportunities for prosperity and job creation throughout the United States and the Asia-Pacific region by promoting free and open trade and investment, cultivating small and medium-sized businesses, and providing an environment that allows innovation to flourish.

The United States has a unique opportunity to leverage APEC 2011 to enhance national trade priorities, including the Administration's effort to double exports in five years. Strengthening regional economic integration will help U.S. businesses and workers compete more effectively in this dynamic region.

APEC 2011 is also an opportunity to highlight how good American jobs are created and sustained by increased free and open trade. Many U.S. companies and their workers, including small businesses, depend directly or indirectly on exports to Asia-Pacific consumers for a substantial proportion of their revenue.

### **APEC in Numbers**

21 Member Economies  
55 percent of Global GDP  
58 percent of U.S. Goods Exports  
43 percent of World Trade

## **Toward a Seamless Regional Economy**

In 2011, the U.S. and APEC will prioritize building towards a "seamless regional economy" by achieving concrete outcomes, particularly in three specific priority areas:

### **1. Strengthening Regional Economic Integration and Expanding Trade**

The United States works within APEC to strengthen economic integration by working to define, shape, and address the next generation trade and investment issues that will lay a foundation for 21<sup>st</sup> century agreements in the region, including a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). We will also take steps to eliminate barriers to trade and prevent new barriers from emerging; adopt effective, non-discriminatory, and market-driven innovation policies that promote trade and economic growth; and advance structural reform objectives in APEC economies. APEC will also continue to work to make it cheaper, easier, and faster for businesses – particularly small and medium-sized businesses – to trade in the region, including by taking steps to reduce the time, cost, and uncertainty of moving goods and services through the supply chain.

### **2. Promoting Green Growth**

The United States is working with others in the region to protect the environment and ensure that long-term growth is also sustainable. APEC's agenda helps our economies transition to a clean energy future and confront the challenges of climate change. To that end, APEC will accelerate efforts to address barriers to trade in environmental goods. It will also seek to remove tariffs and non-tariff barriers related to advanced technology demonstration vehicles and remanufactured goods. Additionally, APEC will explore ways to combat trade in illegal forestry products and encourage the development, investment, and trade of renewable energy and clean technologies.

### **3. Expanding Regulatory Cooperation and Advancing Regulatory Convergence**

In 2011, APEC is working to improve the quality of the regulatory environment in the region in order to prevent unnecessary barriers to trade, which will allow American businesses to more easily navigate emerging regulatory requirements in the Asia-Pacific. Specifically, APEC will look to increase transparency in the rule-making process, improve the quality of regulations, and increase alignment of technical regulations, especially related to new green technologies by advancing convergence and cooperation on regulatory issues.